

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending January 25, 1947



EVERY TUESDAY

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## Putting the World on Paper

### SEVEN MEN AND THEIR GIGANTIC MAP OF SOUTH AMERICA

WITH the completion of a map of the whole of South America not long ago a gigantic task on which the world's geographers have been engaged since 1891 has been brought one stage nearer to its end—the task of mapping the entire world at a scale of 16 miles to the inch.

It was 25 years ago when the American Geographical Society set out to map South America; and seven men have given all their time to producing the map which has been completed.

Spread out in the forecourt of the Geographical Society's building in New York the huge sheets of the new map cover 320 square feet, and the cost of providing them was over £125,000.

Two World Wars have interrupted the work of the world's geographers on their large-scale international map, and much yet remains to be done. Out of the 974 sheets needed to complete the earth's surface about 400 have now been completed by the geographical authorities of the different countries.

#### Headquarters in Britain

Fifty-nine sheets are required to cover the Continent of Europe outside the European lands of the Soviet Union. Russia is producing her own map sheets; and of the 70 required to cover the United States five have been published and six are ready for publication. This great co-operative international enterprise has had its directing headquarters in Britain in the care of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton which produces our own maps.

When the American Society started to map South America it realised that it was dealing with a portion of the world much of which was unknown and unexplored. Every book, map, sketch, and journey in South America from the earliest days was carefully examined before the blank sheets were laid on the map-drawing table.

#### A Map on Flannel

One day in 1925 an editor was exploring ancient maps in the South American city of Quito in an effort to trace the remote tributaries of the Marañon River, which in its later course becomes the mighty Amazon. Into the office came an Italian missionary priest on his way back to his head-hunting Indian tribes who live along the Marañon River. Fifty miles of unknown country were unmapped which the priest offered to cover. Six months later a large roll arrived at the Geographical Society in New York. It contained a crudely-drawn but detailed map mounted on heavy native-woven flannel—the work of the Italian priest on the untrodden jungle trails.

Prospectors for minerals, oil companies, engineers, water experts, all contributed their bits of knowledge to the map makers. One expedition was specially organised by the Society into the

Central Andes to trace the headwaters of the Amazon, so that this mighty river, which is the biggest in the world, should have its beginnings in the glacier lakes of the Andes clearly marked.

Now that the great map of South America is completed it will be of first-rate importance in settling boundary disputes, which are often occurring there. Some sheets have already been used for this purpose. Airmen, too, are using it in trans-continental flying, and when the defence of the Americas became an urgent need in the war the already-completed sheets were in demand in planning military strategy.

More than half a century has this large-scale map of the world been in progress, and the task is not yet half completed. But two World Wars must be blamed for the slowing-down process. Fuller use of air survey, however, should speed up the task and so recover lost time.

The World Map, no less than the world, now needs a long period of Peace.

## GEMS MADE IN A FURNACE

INFORMATION has recently been released on German methods of producing synthetic gems.

The basic material is a special form of aluminium oxide which is heated to a high temperature in a furnace with a trace of a coloured metallic oxide to colour the gem. By using chromic oxide rubies are formed, and blue sapphires are produced by adding a trace of iron oxide and titanium oxide to the aluminium oxide. Aquamarines are formed when the aluminium oxide contains a trace of nickel oxide.

These gems are too small to be of use for adorning rings and other jewellery, but they are invaluable as bearings in watches and small instruments.

## OLD ABBEY FOR YOUTH

In the grounds of historic Bisham Abbey, Berkshire, Youth Leaders from Britain and France are taking part in the Council of Physical Recreation course. Below, some of the men are doing exercises in front of the Abbey, and, right, Pamela Neate, from Portsmouth, receives expert tuition in javelin throwing.



## THE LAST TIN CAN MAIL John Malekamu's Good Name Goes Round the World

WHEN the passenger ship Matua steamed away on December 21 from Niuafoou Island she carried the last despatch of one of the most famous of all mails—the tin can mail, so called because all the islanders' letters used to be put in tins and delivered by canoe to passing ships.

Niuafoou is one of the Tonga or Friendly Islands, lying in the Pacific about 1100 miles north-west of Auckland in New Zealand; but it is remote from the others and so circled by coral reefs and dangerous currents that big ships cannot approach too near it. Nearly everything for the island has to float there on the tide in sealed cans, and so in time Niuafoou became

known the world over as Tin Can Island.

At one time the island postman used to swim out about a mile to the mail boat from New Zealand; but one day the poor fellow, and the mail, was carried off by a shark, and since then the postman has gone out by canoe, carrying the outgoing mail in tin cans which are hauled up the side of the mail boat by line. Such had been the journey of a letter which some years ago arrived at the C.N. office, its official postmark proclaiming that it had been Despatched by Tin Can Mail!

#### Island Evacuated

Alas, there will be no more tin can mail from Tin Can Island; for, following a severe volcanic eruption on Niuafoou, the Government ordered its complete evacuation, and the people—descendants of those islanders whom Captain Cook found so Friendly—are now camped in Nukualofa, capital of the Tongan group, before being transferred to a new island home. The natives are happy at the thought of having found freedom from the fear of another earthquake, but at the same time they are sad at having to leave the island which had been their home for generations.

As the Matua is not a big ship the natives were only allowed to take their closest possessions, and they came aboard clutching small parcels wrapped in matting. Each family refused to be parted from its precious kerosene lamp. Some of the natives who were ferried out from the north-west side of the island had never been aboard a ship of any size before, and to them it was a fearsome thing, though they valiantly tried to hide their fear.

#### End of a Chapter

With the islanders came the last tin can mail from Niuafoou, and the stamps on those letters will be much sought after by collectors because of the unique form of their cancellation. As all the post office equipment was lost in the September eruption the postmaster, John Malekamu M., had to cancel each stamp with the date, his name, and his appointment, in his own writing. This cancellation gives prominence to the name of a native who as postmaster and radio operator became well known as the man who kept in touch with the outside world during the eruption by taking a battery set into the hills.

He may not have realised it, but as he laboriously cancelled each stamp, John Malekamu M. was writing the end of a chapter of Pacific Islands history.

## The Love of an Elephant

How devoted to one another wild elephants can be was touchingly revealed in Rhodesia not long ago. Near Umtali, in a district where wild elephants had not been seen for many years, four of them wandered into a plantation of young blue gums, causing much damage.

In dismay, the local farmers sought the help of Mr de Kock, of the Government Experimental Station at Umtali. He and two colleagues arrived, and fired into the air to drive them away. The elephants, always nervous animals, were no doubt alarmed and excited by the firing, and suddenly Mr de Kock found one of them charging at him from the rear. He was obliged to shoot it to save his life. Then two more infuriated elephants charged at him, but he managed to avoid them without firing.

For the remainder of the afternoon the other elephants stayed with their dead comrade; all through the night they remained on guard, and the farmers in the neighbourhood could hear their distressful trumpeting. It was not until morning that the sad party of elephants moved away.



## AMERICA'S GOAL Security For All Mankind

OF greater interest than for many years past, both to the American people and to the world at large, was the recent message which, under the American Constitution, the President is obliged to present each year to the United States Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate). For America's influence in world affairs is greater than ever before.

The reason why Mr Truman's message was so important was mainly because of the result of the elections last November. After 16 years of undisputed leadership in both Houses of Congress the Democratic Party found itself in a minority in both Houses. The Democratic President, therefore, can no longer count on a faithful Congress. On the other hand, the Republicans now possess effective means of making the life of the Government difficult. They can, for instance, refuse public funds where the Government may want them; they may reject an Act which the Government thinks is necessary.

This is a situation not without precedent, as in 1919 when the Democratic President Woodrow Wilson found himself supported only by a minority. It is worth remembering this date because the quarrel between President Wilson and the Republican Senate led to a rejection by America of the Versailles Treaty with Germany and to a course of American isolationism which proved disastrous to the world. Now again, in the two crucial years during which we expect to see the Peace Treaties signed, a Democratic President has to face a Republican Senate—the treaty-approving body according to the American Constitution.

Mr Truman's speech, however, was restricted rather to home policy and its possible effect on the world situation than on the foreign policy. As to the latter, there is little likelihood that we shall witness a repetition of the deadlock of 1919-1920. President Truman has long put the whole question of America's foreign policy on a national basis. The consent of both Democrats and Republicans has been gained in setting out the

general policy of the American Government; and two influential Senators, Mr Connally, representing the Democratic Party, and Mr Vandenberg, of the Republican Party, were invited to be members of the American delegation to the peace talks in the various Allied capitals, including London.

It is also, by the way, because of America's clear foreign policy, that the change of foreign secretaryship (now taken over by General Marshall) should mean little or no change in the international situation.

As to Russia, President Truman emphasised that the basic interests of the United States and the Soviet Union were the same: to sign peace as quickly as possible and get on with

### General Marshall



The new US Secretary of State, who succeeds Mr Byrnes, was Chief of the US Army Staff during the war. For 13 months he has been in China striving to achieve peace between the Kuomintang and the Communists.

reconstruction. And the President added that America does not intend to treat Russia differently than other nations. "We seek only," he declared, "to uphold the principles of international justice embodied in the Charter of the United Nations."

Speaking about controversial home policies, President Truman stressed the problem of strikes and asked Congress to set up a Commission to study relations between employers and workers and make recommendations by the middle of March. But he also urged Congress not to pass laws that would punish the whole working-class. On the other hand, he promised to introduce legislation that would bring American workers further benefits and social security.

The President's speech displayed great understanding for America's responsibility to the world, as the following passage shows: "We have a higher duty than attainment of national security. Our goal is collective security for all mankind. If we can work in a spirit of understanding and mutual respect, we can fulfil this solemn obligation which rests on us. The spirit of the American people can set the course of world history."

## Smiles Again in Formosa

AFTER six years of exile Presbyterian missionaries have returned to the island of Formosa, off the Chinese coast, and have been welcomed with great enthusiasm.

Formosa, or Taiwan as it is sometimes called, was ceded by China to Japan as long ago as 1895; and although Japan made a great effort to colonise the island there were fewer than 300,000 Japanese settlers there out of a total population of 5,872,000 at the 1940 census. Now Formosa is Chinese once again.

The two days' journey from Shanghai to Formosa was made by the Revd W. E. Montgomery in an 8000-ton American transport into which three thousand Chinese were packed. As he went up to Tainan, one of the chief cities, Mr Montgomery was able to look with fresh eyes on the land he had had to leave in 1940. There is a new air of freedom about Formosa—no more heel clicking, or martial parades—and the peasants working the fields seem to be livelier and more friendly now that their Japanese rulers have gone.

Most of the mission property in the island is in good condition, and the Formosans had been busy preparing houses for the returning missionaries. Chairs, tables, beds, cupboards, and even enough plates and cups (which are very scarce in the island) had been procured. Formosan women had scrubbed the houses through and had provided food.

### A Hearty Welcome

"So you're back again," was the welcome given to the missionaries in the streets. Rickshaw-pullers and shopkeepers stopped to say how glad they were to know that British and Canadian missionaries were coming back. At the first Sunday morning service about 400 people crowded into the church which is the only building left standing in Tainan's much-bombed areas.

During the war many Formosan Christians were imprisoned and tortured with savage cruelty. Because of their sympathies with the Americans, Christian leaders were threatened that if an American landing was made they would be executed. A list was drawn up, and everyone whose name was on it knew what to expect in case of a landing.

Poverty, hardship, and bomb-damaged towns are three great afflictions in Formosa now, but the islanders believe that their old friends who have returned will help them to face the future with courage.

### The Disabled at Work

DURING the war the Government promised that all people disabled through enemy action would be helped back to work if humanly possible.

Mr George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, has announced that nine out of ten disabled persons in Britain, of whom 730,000 are registered, have been found employment. This has been made possible by special training and legislation.

To show how disabled persons can do skilled and other useful work in industry, an exhibition called *And So To Work* is being held in Oxford Street, London, until February 1.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**PEACEMAKER.** Although his feet were blistered and he had to walk barefoot, Mr Gandhi, aged 77, recently continued his walking tour of villages in Eastern Bengal, where there had been rioting.

Cuckoo clocks, once so popular, which are made in the Black Forest, will soon be available again by an arrangement with the French zone authorities in Germany.

A home for destitute Hungarian boys has been opened in a mansion which belonged to ex-Regent Admiral Horthy. A Quaker Englishwoman, Miss Elizabeth Habershon, is among those in charge.

**ATLANTIC HOLD-UP.** The US liner, *America*, was recently slowed down from 24 to 19 knots by running into a shoal of herrings in the Atlantic. The liner scooped up about three-and-a-half tons of herrings in its water system and carried them to Cherbourg.

A reply was sent from Denmark recently to a message put into a bottle and thrown into the sea by two Norwich children last August.

Work is to restart on the Palace of the Soviets in Moscow, which, when completed, will be 120 feet higher than the Empire State Building in New York. It will be used by the Soviet Parliament and for big meetings and celebrations.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**HANDWRITING TEST.** The judging of entries for this great C.N. competition has now been completed and it is hoped to publish the results in next week's issue.

When the first whale meat appeared in City of London fish shops, queues lined up for it. It was sold at 1s 10d a pound.

Mrs R. Brooks, of Coalville, Leicestershire, planted an orange pip 17 years ago in a greenhouse pot. It has grown into a tree bearing fruit.

**BRAVE GIRLS.** Carnegie Trust awards for bravery have been won by Mary Addison and Edith Sedgbeer, former Women's Land Army girls, for rescuing a German prisoner-of-war from an angry bull.

Sir James Bisset, Captain of the Queen Elizabeth and Commander of the Cunard White Star fleet, has retired at the age of 63.

The reconstruction of Queen's Dock, Glasgow, will cost £6,275,000.

**QUIET, PLEASE!** At Wimbledon Library a special room is to be reserved in which children may do their homework.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**SCOUT EXPLORERS.** Twenty Senior Scouts, all of whom have good Scouting knowledge, have been selected to take part in an expedition to Newfoundland organised by the Public Schools' Exploration Society.

The Cornwell Scout Badge has been awarded to Scout Kenneth Mason, of the 4th Ruislip Scout Group, for his high standard of character, devotion to duty, and courage under great suffering. Kenneth, who is a King's Scout, is 17 years old.

Twenty-eight boys aged from eight to 14, half of whom are Scouts or Wolf Cubs, left South-

**WORLD YOUTH.** About 50,000 visitors from 60 countries are expected to attend the festival at Prague from July 20 to August 17, arranged by the World Federation of Democratic Youth. Britain will send about 6000 and British manufactures and youth handicrafts will be shown at a miniature Europe Can Make It exhibition.

The 34th session of the Indian Science Congress at Delhi has been attended by 1200 delegates from different parts of India, and 20 foreign scientists from Britain, the U.S., Canada, France, and China.

The Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, has sent £10,000 for famine relief in the Hunan province of China.

**LUNCH AT THE POLE.** Norwegian Airlines are planning tourist trips over the North Pole in 1948. Every comfort will be provided, and passengers will be able to have lunch while flying over the Polar regions.

A network of television stations is to be built throughout France. A demonstration caravan will tour the French provinces to stimulate interest in television.

Over 99 per cent of malaria cases have been cured by the new British drug, paludrine, in the State of Victoria, Australia.

A floating dock costing £1,125,000 has been built at Bombay. It is 885 feet long, 172 feet wide, and 75 feet high, and takes ships up to 50,000 tons.

The Textile Gallery of the Science Museum, South Kensington, has been reopened. The exhibits illustrate the basic technique of many branches of the textile industry.

Two local companies have submitted a plan to Southend Council proposing a link-up of Southend in Essex with the Medway towns by ferry-boat service. Cross-Channel services to Calais and Boulogne are also planned.

**BUSY BRITAIN.** Unemployment in this country last year never rose above two and a half per cent of the industrially-insured population.

The smallest railway in Britain, the 15-inch gauge 8½-mile Romney, Hythe, and Dymchurch line, has celebrated its coming of age. It was opened 21 years ago by the King.

**FOR THE HUNGRY.** A restricted parcel post to the whole of Germany has now been opened, but those sending food parcels to any European country, including Germany, should continue to do so through "Save Europe Now," and should write for instructions to 14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, WC2.

ampton in the Cape Town Castle recently, bound for Southern Rhodesia.

**BIRMINGHAM BRAINS.** Three members of the Birmingham Battalion of the Boys Brigade have won scholarships in Modern Languages at three colleges at Cambridge University.

A choir, consisting of 12 grown-up members of the French Guide and Scout Associations, is to give a series of concerts in England in March. Known in France as "Joyeuse Lumière," the choir has already made successful tours in Austria and Switzerland.



## Destroying the Indestructible

THE astonishing scientific instrument described recently in the C.N. making transparent bacteria visible, would have delighted the late Sir James Dewar, the great scientist who first liquefied, and then solidified, hydrogen.

Testing the effects of extreme cold on bacteria, the lowest form of life, Sir James employed germs that give out light when they can absorb into their systems oxygen from the fluid in which they live. In his laboratory he froze them solid at the lowest temperature it was possible for him to produce—that at which hydrogen becomes solid ice. With their oxygen supply cut off by frost the bacteria lost colour and seemed to die. He kept a number of them in this temperature for months, however, then restored them to

normal atmospheric temperature. They were not dead; as soon as they thawed their colour returned. They seemed indestructible. That being so, Dewar was asked whether such germs, reaching space, could, as had often been suggested, be transmitted to another planet, there eventually to reproduce themselves.

Sir James's answer was No! The extreme cold of outer space would not kill the bacteria, but one thing is eventually fatal to them—sunlight, even when they are frozen hard. Space is full of waves of light, and these would kill, where the intensest frost was powerless to destroy. And that is the answer to the oft-repeated theory that life in its lowliest forms may have reached the earth, as germs, from some remote planet in space.

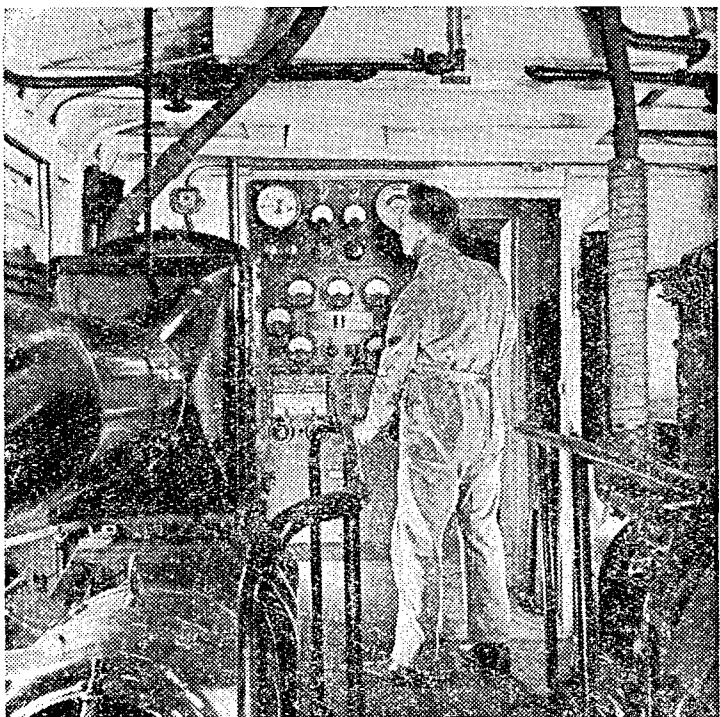
## NO CHANGE!

SINCE the age of ten, 83-year-old Mr Frederick Butchers, of Horsmonden, Kent, has worked on the same farm, is still going strong, and has no intention of retiring. He first came to the farm at the age of eighteen months, and during his 73 years of work has served three different farmers.

## Elizabeth of England

AT London Airport the first of the Tudor I passenger airliners, which will be used on the London to Montreal route, is being launched this week by Princess Elizabeth and given the title of Elizabeth of England.

When she takes off on her first Atlantic crossing "Elizabeth's" passengers will have the satisfying knowledge that she has been subjected to, and passed, the most rigorous tests. Another Tudor, similar to the Elizabeth, carrying BOAC staff and technical experts, will have flown thousands of miles under every possible condition this type of plane is likely to meet.



## Engineer on the Royal Train

The electrical engineer is seen in the combined sleeper, brake, and power car of the LMS train which is used for journeys by the Royal Family. It has sleeping accommodation for 14 of the train staff, an engine-room for generator sets which provide power and light, and a 25-line automatic telephone.

## FLOWERS IN THE SNOW

ONE of the supreme wonders of a snowy English garden in winter, when the sap of trees and plants is down and the whole growth seems to be hibernating as snugly as a dormouse, is to see a flower in glorious bloom.

Such a growth is most likely to be the black hellebore. Though its root, like its name, is black, its blooms are the most delicate and perfect white, and the flowers are in their prime when all but the evergreens are shrivelled with cold. The hellebore seems to defy the chill buffets of winter. It has been busy during the autumn, preparing for its winter display, and when ice is hard and snow heavy, slowly up come its lovely blooms, even splitting the cakes of ice that have formed over them, and pushing aside the snow as a snowdrop pushes aside the soil.

Gardeners call it the Christmas rose, but it lasts far longer than Christmas, and is a sight throughout January to tempt even the most shivery of mortals from the fireside out into the frigid garden. The Alps have flowers such as the soldanellas and others that thrust up through the snow to the sunlight, but we find nothing more wonderful anywhere than the charming hellebore of such English gardens as cultivate them.

## THE LAST SMOCK MILL?

BELIEVED to be the only working smock mill in Britain, the fine specimen at Worham, Suffolk, is to be saved. The mill, which was once threatened with demolition, has been bought by the East Suffolk County Council. The Council will carry out necessary repairs, aided by two preservation societies, which will share part of the cost.

In the smock type of windmill only the cap, which bears the sails and windshaft, turns to meet the wind.

## The Wild Man of Sweden

A MAN who abandoned civilised life 18 years ago, when he was 20, and went to lead a wild life alone in the forests near Nässjö in Southern Sweden, is now being looked after by the Swedish authorities and is being re-educated to civilised life.

He is quite sane and does not appear to have suffered from the rigours of living like a wild animal in the deep forests. During his 18 years in the wilderness he occasionally made brief visits in winter-time to his home at Lekeby, near Nässjö, to get food, otherwise he won his own livelihood in the woods.

## THE 23-INCH HORSE

WHAT is probably the smallest horse in the world—and certainly the smallest in Britain—is to join a Shetland herd in Belgium. He is Fairy Fireman, and he is only 23 inches high, about the size of an average sheepdog.

He belonged to the herd of miniature Shetlands of Lady Estella Hope, of Bodiam, in Sussex, who for 30 years has specialised in breeding these tiny horses. Fairy Fireman is joining a herd owned by Madame Yves Hamoir.



## Sunshine and Snow

Swiss children have their long vacation in the winter and can enjoy digging snow, just as British boys and girls enjoy playing on the sands in August.

## More Maize

BOTANISTS working in the United States and South Africa have succeeded in growing a new type of maize plant, and the results are astonishing.

Maize is the staple food of South Africa's 10,000,000 natives, and is also the chief ingredient in the feeding of South Africa's cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, and poultry.

Unfortunately, a poor rainfall and indifferent soil have made maize-growing, in the Union a precarious business. But the new maize plant, a hybrid, is remarkably resistant to drought and flourishes in poor soil; and results so far are so encouraging that experts hope to raise the present annual production of maize in South Africa from 18,000,000 bags to 50,000,000.

## LIZZIE THE LIZARD

A RESIDENT of Green Point, near Cape Town, has an unusual pal—a lizard!

Some years ago Mr Nelnhuis saw the lizard running across his yard followed by the household cat. He rescued the lizard, which had lost part of her tail. After a while the lizard became used to her rescuer's presence, and he used to feed her on insects. Her tail grew once more.

Now Lizzie the Lizard is so tame that she nibbles at her rescuer's fingers, and climbs on to his hand at feeding time.

## STAMP NEWS

SARAWAK, in Borneo, is to have the third change in its stamps since the end of the war. When the country was liberated from the Japanese its stamps, bearing the head of Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, the former Rajah, were overprinted B.M.A. by the British Administration which took over. When Sarawak's status was changed to that of a Crown Colony, the stamps no longer bore the letters. Now the stamps, with the same device of the Rajah's head, are to be overprinted—for the time being—for the Royal Cypher.

These new stamps will be printed from the old plates on paper watermarked with the Crown and Script C.A. device used in British Colonial stamps. This issue, which is provisional, is to be in 15 values from one to 55 cents.

## ENGLAND'S LONELIEST INN

KIRKSTONE INN, which was recently cut off by snow-drifts on the roads, is one of the loneliest hostleries in England. It is situated 1500 feet up in the Kirkstone Pass, near Ambleside. The inn is well known to many walkers, cyclists, and motorists.

When the road leading to it was blocked by snow not long ago the only means Mr and Mrs Ion Atkinson, who live there, had of communicating with the outside world was by telephone. They had wisely laid in a supply of food when heavy snow seemed likely.

## Stone Age Pictures From Australia

THIS picture is one of the copies of cave-paintings made by Australian Aborigines which are being shown at an exhibition at Australia House, London, until February 16.

The picture represents a mythical hero of the Australian



Stone Age men. He is named Wond'ina and was for them a symbol of creative power. He is white, has a halo, eight-toed feet, and below him are his two four-toed sons.

The copies of these cave-paintings were made by members of an expedition from the Frobenius Institute, Frankfurt-on-Main, which visited north-west Australia in 1938 and 1939.



## THE SECRETS OF THE CAVE

### Burial of a Mighty Iron Chieftain

A SMITHY that was in working order 2500 years ago has been found in a Moravian cave by Professor K. Absolon, together with lumps of iron, bronze handles, sickles, keys, and a ring of iron.

The iron ring, three inches across and half an inch thick, is the most perplexing relic. Is it cast iron? If so the Moravian smith found the secret of pouring molten iron into a mould all those hundreds of years before it was discovered in England in the 14th century. This rude, mouldering ring would then be Europe's oldest bit of cast iron.

Long before the blacksmith had set up his forge, this cave of Byco-Shala had been a place of high renown. It is a huge cleft in a mountain, extending not far short of a quarter of a mile; it opens with a dimly-lit great hall, as lofty as a church or a cathedral, and ends in a deep pool. Its tenants many thousands of years before had been the Cave Men of the Early Stone Age, and here they left their tools and weapons.

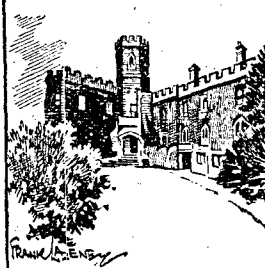
### In the Great Hall

At some unknown date in the Iron Age the smithy was swept away, but the excavators have found evidence of a strange scene which, for centuries brought to a close man's association with the cave. This great hall witnessed the funeral, and became the burial-place, of a mighty Iron Chieftain, with iron heart and iron hand.

He was borne there in a wheeled wagon panelled with decorated bronze and engraved with the swastika; and with him came his regalia and his jewels, set with bronze and gold, a hundred bracelets of bronze and gold, his breastplate, and his sceptre. All these were to be burned in the flaming pyre that was his burial, and when its ashes had sunk down, leaving only darkness and dismay, all that the fire had consumed was overlaid with stones to shut off all knowledge of what he was, and had been. Not till now has this story of the cave's long association with man come to light.

## Games & Their Beginnings

**RUGBY FOOTBALL**  
TAKES ITS NAME FROM THE FAMOUS SCHOOL WHERE IT WAS FIRST PLAYED — BY ACCIDENT



IT WAS DURING AN ORDINARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL MATCH IN 1823 THAT A BOY NAMED WILLIAM WEBB ELLIS FORGOT THE RULES, PICKED UP THE BALL AND RAN AWAY WITH IT.

THIS WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE HANDLING CODE. IT IS DESCRIBED IN A TABLET ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF ELLIS IN THE CLOSE AT RUGBY.

THIS STONE COMMEMORATES THE EXPLOIT OF WILLIAM WEBB ELLIS WHO WITH A FINE DISREGARD FOR THE RULES OF FOOTBALL AS PLAYED IN HIS TIME FIRST TOOK THE BALL IN HIS ARMS AND RAN WITH IT. THIS ORIGINATING THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF THE RUGBY GAME A.D. 1823

OTHER SCHOOLS TOOK UP THE GAME AND CLUBS WERE FORMED, BUT EACH HAD ITS OWN RULES AS AN EXAMPLE BLACKHEATH IN 1862 PERMITTED HACKING, BUT DISCOURAGED ATTEMPTS TO THROTTLE OR STRANGLE. A STANDARD CODE WAS SET UP AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE RUGBY UNION IN 1871

## Rugby Football

## BILLY BRAY'S CHAIR

### Home to the Sanctuary on the Downs

BILLY Bray's mahogany chair with curved back has just come home to Cornwall for good. Everybody says he made it himself and carved his name and the date 1839 on the seat.

The chair has changed hands several times since Billy's death in 1868, and the last owner, a Hereford lady, has presented it to Cornwall on condition that it is kept in the rostrum of the little sanctuary which Billy built on Kerley Downs, Chac water.

Perhaps you have never heard of Billy Bray? Well, he was a poor tin miner and carpenter, but he is best remembered as one of the most famous Non-conformist lay preachers Cornwall has ever produced. An unforgettable character, who wielded a tremendous influence over Cornish folk, many of his quaint sayings are still often quoted. One of them was that if those who opposed and persecuted him for singing and shouting were to put him into a barrel he would "shout Glory out through the bung-hole."

### 20 Miles to Preach

For 40 years, Billy's nimble figure moved about the Duchy, singing, praying, preaching. And building chapels was his hobby. When he was erecting the sanctuary on Kerley Downs, promises of help were not fulfilled. He was working in a tin mine at the time, and then there was the garden to till and sometimes 20 miles or more to walk on Sundays to preach three times. Yet the building went on! Not once did his blistered hands falter! The chapel had three windows and was nicknamed "Three Eyes." It was enlarged some time afterwards and given "six eyes," but it still goes by the old name.

Every year, people from many parts of the country make a pilgrimage to this chapel just because of its associations with "the great little man" who danced in the pulpit and called himself The King's Son. Contributions to the visitors' box are so generous that it is unnecessary to make any special financial appeal for the upkeep of the building or to have more than two offertories a year.

## THAT BOY ROBERT BURNS

SCOTSMEN the world over celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns on January 25. His poems are recited with delight, and many stories are told of the varied life and colourful character of the great national poet. Rarely is his youth mentioned, however, and yet there is much that is of interest in the boyhood of Burns.

A week after Robert was born in an Ayrshire cottage on January 25, 1759, part of the house collapsed, and the infant had to be carried through a storm to the safety of the nearest dwelling.

By all accounts, Robert's father was a remarkable man, for Burns later wrote of him: "I have met few who understood men, their manners, and their ways, equal to my father." Though his father never attended school himself, he was

able to write a dialogue on theology for the education of his children.

His mother, too, according to one of Burns's biographers, was "... a very sagacious woman, without any appearance of forwardness, or awkwardness of manner." Burns, it is said, was like his mother, and he certainly loved her great store of ballads and tales.

The first school which Robert attended was run by a Mr Murdock, who taught the local lads in return for free board and lodging at the homes of the parents of his pupils. Robert studied reading, writing, and spelling from the Bible, Mason's Collection of Prose and Verse, and Fisher's English Grammar. "By the time I was eleven years of age," he wrote, "I was a critic in substantives, verbs, and particles." The first books he

ever read were The Life of Hannibal and The History of Sir William Wallace.

Remembering the lilting lines of the adult Robert Burns, it is curious to learn that as a boy he was so unmusical that he could scarcely distinguish one tune from another!

When Murdock's teaching was no longer available, Robert attended the parish school at Dalrymple, but here the fees were too high to allow both Robert and his brother to go together, so they pursued their studies week and week about. During the week spent at home, each brother helped on his father's farm. The work was hard, and by the time Robert was 15 he was his father's chief labourer. Even then he found time in the evenings to study French and Latin, and to read such authors as Shakespeare, Locke, and Pope.

At 16 he wrote his first poem, and though many years passed before he achieved fame, he never forgot the part his father had played in laying the foundations of his success. Many years later he expressed his gratitude in verse:

*My father was a farmer upon the Carrick border,  
And carefully he bred me up in decency and order.  
He bade me act a manly part, though I had ne'er a farthing,  
For without an honest, manly heart, no man is worth regarding.*

Fit sentiments, these, for the man who wrote, "A man's a man for a' that."

## Bird-Watchers in the Navy

WHERE do starlings go to when they fly westward from our shores? That is a question that the Royal Navy Bird Watching Society hopes to be able to answer soon.

It was previously thought that the flocks of starlings went to Ireland after their autumnal migration, but it is now believed that they move out into the ocean and down the Atlantic seaboard. But wherever they go alert members of this society will be scanning the skies for a glimpse of them and, when they are seen, their position and direction of flight will be noted carefully.

This information will, in due course, reach the Society's headquarters.

This special investigation is the first task of the newly-formed Society, which is the first bird-watching organisation at sea. It has been approved by the Admiralty. Consisting of nearly 160 members ashore and afloat all over the world, the Society hopes eventually to have an observer in every ship in the Royal and Dominion Navies. Observation reports from the seven seas will be passed on to other ornithological societies and should throw new light on many problems.

## WHO WAS HE?



① HE WAS BORN, AT ALCALÁ DE HENARES, NEAR MADRID, IN 1547. HIS YOUTH WAS SPENT ON HIS FATHER'S SMALL FARM, READING EVERYTHING HE COULD FIND. AS A YOUNG MAN HE WENT TO ROME AS A MEMBER OF A CARDINAL'S HOUSEHOLD.

② IN 1570, HE JOINED THE POPE'S ARMY TO FIGHT THE TURKS. ALTHOUGH ILL, HE SAID JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO (1571): "I WOULD RATHER DIE FIGHTING FOR GOD AND THE KING THAN THINK OF MY OWN SAFETY." HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED.



③ FOUR YEARS LATER HE SET SAIL FOR SPAIN. UNFORTUNATELY, PIRATES CAPTURED HIS SHIP AND HE WAS IMPRISONED IN ALGIERS

④ HE AND SOME FRIENDS ESCAPED AND HID FOR SEVERAL MONTHS IN A CAVE. WHEN A SHIP THAT WAS TO RESCUE THEM APPROACHED, IT WAS SEEN BY A SENTRY. AN ARMED FORCE MARCHED INTO THE CAVE AND RECAPTURED THE FUGITIVES.



⑤ HE WAS EVENTUALLY RANSOMED AND RETURNED TO SPAIN — TO LIVE IN POVERTY. HE WAS THROWN INTO A DEBTOR'S PRISON, AND THERE HE WROTE THE FIRST PART OF HIS IMMORTAL STORY OF A FANTASTIC KNIGHT. HE DIED IN APRIL 1616.

WHO WAS HE?  
SEE BACK PAGE

## Picture-Story of a Great Writer



# THE PLANT WIZARDS OF SIBERIA

## Growing New Fruits in the Altai Foothills

Ever since man ceased to live on wild berries and settled down as a farmer he has toiled to improve the yield of the fruits of the earth. During the past 100 years scientists have increased his knowledge of plants and their needs a thousand-fold. The names of Liebig the chemist, Pasteur, Mendel,

and Burbank the biologists, and of our own Dr Biffin, breeder of new wheats for northern climes, stand out in this world-wide effort to obtain more and better food. Plant-breeding stations have been set up in many lands, and here we give the story of a station in the very heart of Asia.

OIROI-TURA, capital of the Oiroi Autonomous Region, is situated in the foothills of the Altai Mountains, the northern range of Asia's awe-inspiring mountain system. In this young city of Southern Siberia a young scientist, Mikhail Lisavenko by name, began his fascinating horticultural work in 1933. Today he is the head of the Altai Fruit and Berry Experimental Station, on the outskirts of Oiroi-Tura, and his station is one of the best in Siberia.

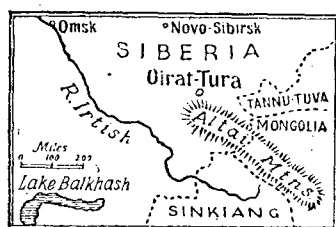
He is a Stalin prize-winner, and is a follower of the famous Russian scientist, Michurin.

The station occupies 2150 acres of land. Its orchards, berry plantations, flower-beds, and decorative trees and plants cover the slopes of the high hills and include over 1600 varieties of perennial plants. There are 431 varieties of apple, 37 of pear, and 22 of plum trees, 49 of grapevines, 104 of currant bushes, 94 of gooseberry, 60 of raspberry and dewberry, 47 of strawberry bushes, and many varieties of cherry, ashberry, and other trees and bushes, all of them thriving and bearing abundant fruit.

### Establishing Gardens in Hundreds of Altai Towns

Here, too, is a rich collection of wild varieties of fruit and particularly berry plants, as well as 300 types of decorative plants, including 208 varieties of herbaceous perennials, 120 of roses, 65 of gladioli, 203 of European, Far Eastern, and American trees and bushes, and 74 varieties of wild Altai perennial flowers.

Up here in the severe Siberian climate where horticulture was long thought impossible, the yields obtained by the experimental station are often higher than those in the central part



of Russia. With the active guidance and assistance of the station, gardens and orchards have been established in hundreds of Altai villages and towns. Today these stretch over 7500 acres and are scheduled to reach 30,000 acres by 1950.

By means of selection, by cultivating new local varieties of apple and other fruit trees, Lisavenko is creating a new fruit base in Siberia. He arrived at the conclusion that, in propagating new varieties of apples to be grown in the Altai, it is necessary to adhere to Michurin's principle of crossing parents whose geographical origin and relation to their surroundings are absolutely different from the conditions under which their offspring is to be reared.

The Altai area lies in the heart of the vast continent of Asia, far from seas, along the northern foothills of the huge Altai, Pamir, and Khin-Gan mountain ranges. The history of geological formations and of changes in the climate and the development of organic life in this area has so far shed very little light on the reasons for the absence in the Altai of certain plants which are abundant in other mountain areas. It is a recognised fact that wild varieties of apple, pear, plum, cherry, and apricot trees, and of grape vines, are not included in the flora of this steppe and mountain area. Moreover, despite the abundant contrasts in

the individual climates so peculiar to certain districts, Nature in the Altai bears the distinct features of the definitely continental climate of Siberia.

The Altai Experimental Station, which already has a collection of the necessary plants from places thousands of miles apart and possesses specially selected sectors differing in land and climate, is a sort of natural laboratory for the evolution of new varieties of plants in soil alien from that in which their ancestors grew.

An analysis of 30,000 hybrids obtained from 80 experiments in crossing apple trees led to the evolution of the best female parents of the future varieties. At the same time the most valuable male parents were evolved from high quality southern varieties. This resulted in two new varieties of apple trees—one aptly named *Uspek* (Success)—which weather well the Altai winter and surpass all known varieties of apple in Siberia for size and quality.

### Currant-bushes That Thrive in a Severe Climate

The station has also been successful in the evolution of new varieties of berries, particularly currants. Common varieties of high-quality European and American currant-plants did not thrive under the severe conditions and perished in the orchards of Siberian peasants. Nor was any greater success achieved with wild varieties of currants and other berry plants transplanted from Siberia's Alpine region known as the taiga, inasmuch as all of them possess the conservative symptoms of wild plants—that is, uneven ripening of the berries and clusters. The ripe berries drop from the bush, resulting in con-



In a greenhouse of the Experimental Station an expert examines new varieties of tomatoes.

siderable loss. Here Mikhail Lisavenko employs an original method. In order to utilise the valuable qualities of the wild currant-plants, namely, their high yield and frost-resistance and to overcome the dropping of the ripe fruit, he crosses these with the best European varieties.

With a view to selecting from among the "wild" plants the most suitable parents of future varieties, currant bushes were taken from 400 localities in the northern hemisphere and 83,000 seedlings were grown and analysed. When crossed with the best European and American varieties they yielded 13,500 hybrids. From these were produced the Nina, Nadezhda and other new varieties of currants which do not drop the ripe fruit,

ripen evenly, and produce fruit of fine taste. They also combine a high yield with the frost-resisting qualities of wild berries.

Many methods long known to science and horticulture are undergoing radical changes in the Altai. The staff of the station seek out suitable varieties for each district which has a special climate of its own, and alter accordingly their methods of raising seed material, growing fruit trees, and cultivating the soil, and of their passive and active struggle against frosts.

Man, in fact, has carried his struggle with Nature into the mountain regions of Central Asia, is mastering her secrets, and increasing for the benefit of his fellows her yield of the fruits of the earth.



The orchards, plantations, and trial grounds are set amid the foothills of the Altai Mountains, on the outskirts of the town of Oiroi-Tura.



In the summer young students from many Siberian agricultural colleges come to the station for training, and some of them are here seen with the Head, M. A. Lisavenko.



# HAPPY YOUNG VOYAGERS



Nine of the Sea Cadets who are going to South Africa with the King and Queen. Back Row: A. E. Barratt (Belvedere); V. L. Bayne (Hornchurch); C. Partridge (Dover). Middle Row: G. Blezard (Huddersfield); K. S. Rees (Llanelli); J. Troman (Birmingham). Front Row: H. M. King (Clydebank); J. E. Scott (Belfast); A. J. Usher (Southport).

A GRAND adventure which they will remember all their lives awaits 18 proud and fortunate young men who have been selected to accompany the Royal Family on their tour of South Africa next month. Of these specially-chosen young fellows, 12 are Sea Cadets, four are Air Training Corps cadets, and two are Sea Scouts.

Nine of the Sea Cadets were selected after interviews at the Sea Cadets' headquarters in London; each of these comes from a different area in Great Britain. The other three Sea Cadets selected are from schools: James Rich from Dulwich College, K. M. Frew from Aldenham School, and Reginald Churchward from George Heriot's School, Edinburgh.

These honoured lads will sail with HMS Vanguard, which is to take the Royal Family to South Africa. The Sea Cadets will be treated as part of the ship's company. They will act as messengers and orderlies and will be paid pocket money by the Navy League at the same rate as boy's pay in the Royal Navy. They will remain with the Vanguard during the royal tour.

The two chosen Sea Scouts will also sail in the Vanguard. They are: Troop - Leader Anthony

## A Giant Wheel to be Scrapped

THE great water-wheel of Catrine, in Ayrshire, 157 feet in circumference and carrying 120 buckets, has been making three revolutions a minute since 1827, when it was built. Soon it will be turning its last, for it is to be broken up for scrap to make way for electrical power.

This giant wheel is really two big wheels joined together to make one twin wheel. As it revolves its buckets are filled from a lake running beneath it. The power thus supplied drives the machinery of two mills.

Catrine's wheel is a great attraction for tourists who visit the huge shed in which it is housed.

Millar, aged 17½, of the 2nd Ampleforth College Troop, who lives at Woking; and Patrol-Leader Dennis Genders, 17½, 1st Nottinghamshire Troop, who lives at Hucknall.

The four happy cadets of the A.T.C. were chosen by merit from cadets of Scotland, Northern and Western England, Wales, and London. They are: Sergeant D. W. England, 17½, of Liverpool; Flight-Sergeant J. L. Price, 17½, of London; Flight-Sergeant Ian G. Beattie, 17½, of Dumfries; and Flight-Sergeant Brian M. Laven, of Nottingham. They will travel with the King's Flight of the R.A.F., consisting of four Vickers Vikings, which have been described as the world's safest twin-engined aircraft. Two of the Vikings have been prepared for the Royal Family to travel in from place to place in South Africa, one plane for the King, the other for the Queen. A third Viking will carry their Majesties' personal suite of ladies and gentlemen, and the fourth Viking is a servicing aircraft, carrying everything necessary to keep the planes airworthy.

The King's Flight, commanded by Air-Commodore E. H. Fielden, is due, at the end of this month, to fly on ahead of the Royal Party and await their arrival at Cape Town. The A.T.C. lads with this Flight will, like their opposite numbers at sea, be treated as members of planes' crews and will be given pocket money. They will act as assistant stewards and perform other duties, such as helping to guard the planes when they are not in use. The four air cadets are now eagerly awaiting their wonderful journey and have had issued to them new uniforms and tropical kit, including shorts, stockings, shirts with A.T.C. shoulder badges, and so on.

Congratulations to all these worthy representatives of British Youth who are to have the memorable experience of travelling with the King and Queen and the two Princesses, and also, doubtless, of seeing a good deal of the South African people's welcome to the Royal Family.

## The Cricketer Who Made Good

SOME years ago, a Norfolk farmer furnished something of a sensation in local cricket circles by fielding a team composed of eleven members of his family. One of the youngest of that Norfolk farmer's sons has become famous, and during this winter has won fresh laurels as an England Test star. His name is William John Edrich, recognised today as one of our finest batsmen, as well as a brilliant fielder and fast bowler.

It was in 1936, when he was 20, that Edrich first gained prominence by scoring 111 not out for Norfolk against the visiting South Africans. That innings brought its reward, for it led to Edrich being engaged on the ground-staff at Lord's.

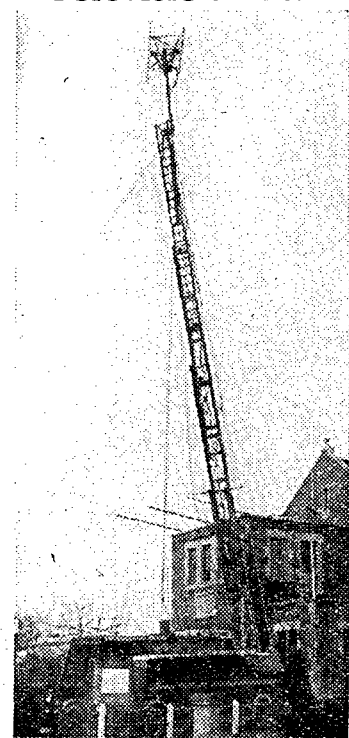
### Grit and Determination

Edrich's rise to fame is a fine example of what grit and determination can do. In 1933, after many wonderful performances for his adopted Middlesex, he was chosen for all the Tests against the Australians in this country. Despite his enthusiasm, however, Edrich failed to produce his real form.

He was again chosen for the next series of Test matches, in South Africa, the following winter; and again misfortune and comparative failure was his lot, until the selectors despaired of this stocky young Middlesex player. In the second innings of the Fifth Test against South Africa, however, Edrich's grit and determination came to the fore, and he redeemed himself with a brilliant innings of 219.

From that moment he has never looked back, and in the present series of Tests in Australia, William Edrich, who during the war was a bomber pilot and won the D.F.C., has more than justified the confidence which was placed in him, even when he was failing time after time.

## Television Mast



A fire-escape serves as a mobile aerial for a B.B.C. television broadcast from a London theatre.

## The Editor's Table

### NEW CITIZENS

BRITAIN has made a statesman-like as well as gallant gesture in offering the privilege of British citizenship now to over a thousand orphans from Europe who are still under twenty-one. This fine offer is the culmination of years of friendship shown to those who in their childhood were rescued from the horrors of Nazism, and it may be put on record among the acts of wise understanding which characterise the British people at their best.

"Britain is full of warm-hearted people," said an M.P. in the House of Commons the other day, and how true that is many refugees from Europe well know; and many thousands of German prisoners realised it, too, when they shared the Christmas dinners of British families. Now comes this crowning offer to hundreds of young people of the best that Britain can give—the key to citizenship and all the privileges that go with it.

ONE of Britain's glories has long been her name as a refuge for the oppressed and persecuted. These islands have never been closed to anyone who in freedom's name has asked for admittance, seeking a haven from the storms of revolution and hatred. Kings, emperors, revolutionaries, scientists, and writers have ever found in our islands a sanctuary denied them elsewhere.

The gain to this country has been as much as to her new citizens. We need the stimulus of new blood and new ideas. Many of the young people who now stand on the threshold of British citizenship have high talents. Among them may be many of our future leaders. New industries may emerge from their inventive genius, as they did when the refugee Huguenots brought silk-weaving into England and laid the foundations of what is now the rich artificial silk industry.

MANY races have contributed to our own island culture—Norman, Scandinavian, Dutch, Flemish, German, English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish. We are a cosmopolitan nation who, in learning to live together amicably, have produced political ideas which today influence half the world. Had we turned our back on foreigners in the past we might have remained a small and unimportant island people.

Britain's doors have been wide open in the past to all who have wanted to live under her flag. This new gesture of friendship to a needy group of the world's young people shows that the old spirit is not dead. Let us salute Britain's new citizens. They come at a time when we need them.

### THE CONCERN OF ALL

IN Faith and Hope the world will disagree. But all mankind's concern is Charity. Pope

### Holidays With Pay

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Labour Gazette, between eleven and twelve million wage-earners are now covered by agreements for holidays with pay, apart from many others such as clerks and salaried workers to whom they are granted. In March 1937 such agreements covered fewer than two million workers.

Under the various agreements now in force, holidays range from six to eighteen days a year.

Fifty years ago it was the exception rather than the rule for workers to be given holidays and be paid for them. Now that practically all are covered, we can regard it as the fulfilment of a reform which has long been overdue, for in the stress of modern life holidays are a necessity, not a luxury.

### Mining in the Colonies

IN years gone by many successful seekers after gold and other mineral wealth made big fortunes, but often the mining developments which they established brought about difficulties, disturbances, and actual distress of many kinds. For instance, if gold were found, the natives might forsake their farming for the better paid work of mining.

As far as our colonies are concerned, the old order of haphazard mining seems to be drawing to an end. The Government have published a memorandum on mining policy, in which they state that mining in the Colonies should be carried out to a deliberately-planned programme, and be so directed that the old evils are avoided.

This is not to say that there will be no further scope for the spirit of adventure in the search for mineral wealth. What is now aimed at is the prevention of suffering and distress among the natives of a colony where new mineral wealth has been discovered. All who have human well-being at heart will agree that that is fair, and right.

## Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If Bath buns are made from sponge mixture.

CHILDREN soon grow out of their clothes. And in them.

BUS Causes Jam, says a headline. A jar for everybody.

ENGLISH people like to look trim. Anyhow a tidy few.

A MAN says he cooked meals on Mr. Churchill's special train. Hadn't he a stove?

THE new Term should have some celebration, writes a schoolgirl. Well, it begins with a T.

A LIBRARY in Birmingham has been turned into a bakery. Ought to produce novel loaves.



## THINGS SAID

THE general position in the world, while it still presents great difficulties both of a political and economic kind, is more hopeful than it was a year ago.

*Sir Hartley Shawcross*

YOUTH should stay in Britain and fight it out—fight for the opportunity to enrich their country, their families, and themselves.

*H. A. Nutting, MP*

SPORT is one of the great common denominators of all the peoples of the world.

*Lord Burghley*

I AM convinced that the world has got to find a way in which to settle its differences peacefully.

*General Eisenhower*

WE are one of the few people who can laugh at ourselves.

*Herbert Morrison, MP*

WE will have to alter our ways in trade and show youth a road of adventure, with rewards which are there for people of enterprise, capacity, and courage.

*Lord Woolton*

## Bonnie Ideas

THE Advisory Council on Education in Scotland have made some startling suggestions. They propose that the fundamentals of education should no longer be the "three Rs"—reading, writing, and arithmetic—but, if fundamental subjects are necessary, they should be physical education, handwork, and speech.

Admirers of "broad Scots" will be shocked at the Council's condemnation of what they call vulgar forms of speech masquerading as Scots. The Council also condemn compulsory homework and examinations.

## Our Friend the Dog

WITH eye upraised, his master's looks to scan;  
The joy, the solace, and the aid of man;  
The rich man's guardian, and the poor man's friend,  
The only creature faithful to the end.

*Crabbe*

## Editor's Table

A LADY says she likes to make new things from old. Most of us are better at making old things from new.

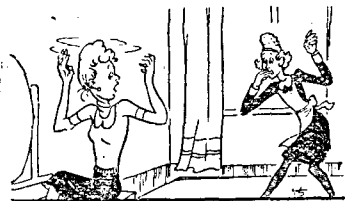
□

A MAN has been given a sack of eating potatoes. He doesn't know what to feed them on.

□

THE British labourer is free to choose his own mode of life. And takes his pick.

□



SOME women never look at the back of their heads, declares a fashion writer. Their necks are not long enough!

## School Harmony

IN Britain the school orchestra is comparatively rare, mainly owing to the difficulty of teaching instrument playing in class.

The Ministry of Education has arranged a special course for teachers, to be held in April at Lodge Hill, Pulborough, Sussex, when leading musical experts will explain the technique of teaching the violin, viola, and cello to a number of students in small classes.

It is an excellent idea for, by employing trained teachers to give "mass instruction," instead of the more usual individual attention, to pupils, one of the biggest problems in training a school orchestra will be solved.

## They Also Serve Who Save

WHEN Sir Harold Mackintosh, Chairman of the National Savings Committee, spoke at the Headmasters' Conference in London the other day he mentioned the great part played in achieving Victory by schools, which raised one hundred million pounds during the War Savings Campaign.

Sir Harold emphasised that the need for saving is as great as ever. The savings habit cannot be learned too young and, he added, "thrift in schools can be part of the training for citizenship."

The National Savings Committee has issued an attractive poster for schools and youth organisations. It is dedicated to the Children of Great Britain and gives pictures and brief biographies of famous men and women who have served humanity. The poster bears the appropriate slogan *They Also Serve Who Save*, a reminder that the savings habit is not only good for the individual but is a service to the community.

## HOAR FROST

WHAT dream of beauty ever equalled this!  
What bands from Fairyland have sallied forth,  
With snowy foliage from the abundant North, [bliss!  
With imagery from the realms of  
What visions of my boyhood do I miss  
That here are not restored! All splendours pure,  
All loveliness, all graces that allure;  
Shapes that amaze; a paradise that is—  
Yet was not—will not in few moments be:  
Glory from nakedness, that playfully  
Mimics with passing life each summer boon;  
Clothing the ground—replenishing the tree;  
Weaving arch, bower, and delicate festoon;  
Still as a dream—and like a dream to flee!

*William Howitt*

## JUST AN IDEA

A secret is like silence; you cannot talk about it and keep it.

## Torchbearers at Melrose Abbey

LODGE MELROSE ST JOHN, one of the four oldest Masonic Lodges in Scotland, has been celebrating in picturesque fashion the 200th anniversary of its foundation.

Headed by a band and torchbearers, the Masons made a triple circuit of the historic ruins of Melrose Abbey, then gathered in a circle for the final ceremony round the site of the high altar where the heart of King Robert the Bruce is said to have been buried. Some of the grey stones of this ancient abbey, lit by the flickering torchlight, were fashioned and laid in position 300 years ago by those foreign craftsmen who, according to tradition, introduced Freemasonry into Scotland from the Continent.

Evidence of Sir Walter Scott's association with Lodge Melrose St John can be found in the books of the Lodge.

## Hoisting Sail



A young Welsh worker puts the finishing touches to a yacht in a busy toy-factory at Merthyr Tydfil. The hulls of the boats are made of steel.

## A New Children's Theatre

CHILDREN between the ages of six and twelve have a new theatre of their very own in London. On Tuesday, January 14, the St Marylebone Children's Theatre opened at the De Walden Institute, Charlbert Street, St John's Wood, with *The Magic Bat*, a play specially written.

The theatre is to be permanent, and open to everybody, but the first aim is to give children entertainment that is also real art, and to foster their interest in the living theatre. They are to be encouraged to criticise work and to suggest improvements.

The Mayor of St Marylebone (Alderman G. S. Steel, JP) has shown great interest in the venture and is one of the directors, among the others being Sir Kenneth Barnes, Principal of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and Benjamin Britten, the brilliant composer. The idea was born about a year ago in the minds of two actresses, Diana Britton and Pat Young, who are the managing directors of the company. Marion Watson, assistant drama director at Toynbee Hall, is the producer.

## A BRAVE BUT RECKLESS POET

WHEN, on January 21 just 400 years ago, Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, was beheaded on Tower Hill, England lost one of her earliest poets. He is memorable as the man who introduced blank verse into English poetry, and, with Sir Thomas Wyatt, was the first to use the sonnet in this country; but he was a man who also played a part in history.

The Earl of Surrey's poetry was written at odd moments snatched from a crowded life, for he combined love of learning with the more active pursuits of a soldier and diplomat. He was a cousin of Catherine Howard, the fifth of Henry VIII's ill-fated wives, and he sometimes accompanied the King on diplomatic journeys.

He was a Knight of the Garter, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and a Grand-Seneschal of the University of Cambridge, but his high spirits and somewhat self-willed nature often led him into conduct hardly consistent with these high honours and titles, or with his undoubtedly great accomplishments. In 1537 he was imprisoned for striking a courtier in the park at Hampton Court and challenging him to a duel, and some years later he was charged before the Privy Council for roystering in the streets at night and breaking windows.

When Surrey was committed for trial for the last time, however, it was on a much more serious charge. Unfortunately for himself, he had incurred the enmity of the powerful Earl of Hertford, an uncle of the heir to the throne, who seized the first opportunity to accuse Surrey of high treason.

## Tried in Guildhall

Surrey's only offence was that he had assumed the arms of his ancestor, Edward the Confessor, along with his own—a practice allowed by the laws of heraldry, but a dangerous one in those dangerous days. At his trial in the Guildhall he made a spirited and able defence; but it was of no avail and he was condemned to death, a victim of recklessness. After his execution his body was taken to Framlingham Church, where it rests under a handsome monument of black and white marble. Thus, at the early age of 29, ended the promising career of one who was described by Sir Walter Raleigh

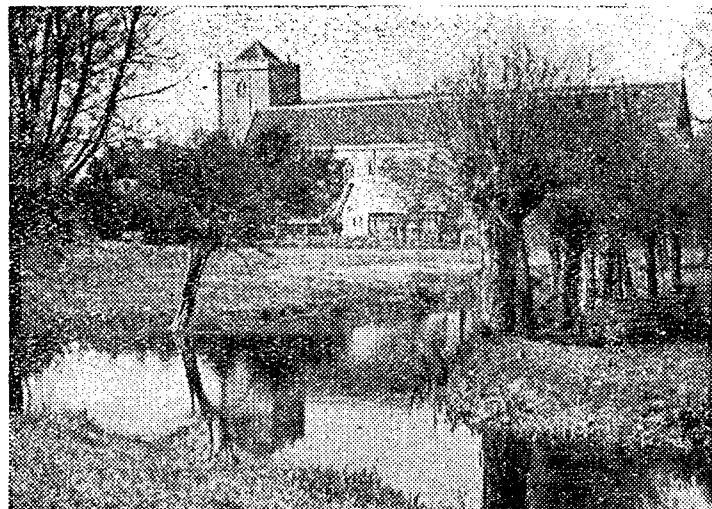
as a man who "was no less valiant than learned."

Surrey will always be remembered for introducing "the strange metre" of blank verse into English poetry in his translation of the second and fourth books of Virgil's *Aeneid*. He is also credited with the invention of the English form of the 14-line sonnet which Shakespeare was to use with much greater artistry later in the century. But for this courtier poet's genius for devising new forms and metres in poetry the contribution to literature of the greatest of English poets might have been very different.

## Melodious Verse

Most of the Earl of Surrey's poetry, after the fashion of his times, expressed the emotion of love for fair women, fanciful or real; and it is now unsung, and well-nigh forgotten. But as an example of one of the earliest of English sonnets, and of the Earl of Surrey's melodious verse, we give here his *Description of Spring*:

THE sweet season, that bird and bloom forth brings,  
With green hath clad the hill,  
and in the vale  
The nightingale with feathers new she sings;  
The turtle to her mate hath told her tale.  
Summer is come, for every spray now springs.  
The hart hath hung his old head on the pale;  
The buck in brake his winter coat he flings;  
The fishes fleet with new repair-ed scale;  
The adder with her slough away she flings;  
The swift swallow pursueth flies so small;  
The busy bee her honey now she mings;  
Winter is worn that was the flower's bale.  
And thus I see among these pleasant things  
Each care decays, and yet my sorrow springs.



THIS ENGLAND

The willowy banks of the Thame by Dorchester Abbey Church in Oxfordshire



## CUP-TIES IN BRACES

WITH the contest for the English Cup now in full swing, the English Soccer world is at its busiest. When the Cup was first played for, in the 1871-72 season, there was no Football League, and, while many of the original competitors have ceased to exist, a number of the clubs now striving for the trophy had not been formed. The South created the competition, with both Varsities and Old Boy teams in the forefront.

The subscription to the Football Association being only five shillings a year per club, there was no reserve fund for the purchase of the Cup, so the clubs themselves provided the necessary £25. Queen's Park, then the greatest club in Scotland, heading the subscription list with a guinea. Like Glasgow Rangers, who met Aston Villa in a Cup semi-final at Crewe in 1887, Queen's Park played several seasons in the English Cup, and for their first visit to the Oval in a Cup match a public subscription was raised in Scotland to pay their travelling expenses.

The first of the national Cup competitions attracted only 15 entrants, and of these three withdrew without playing. Even the famous Queen's Park once "scratched" in a semi-final to the Wanderers. This was a magnificent team of old Varsity and Public School players, who, having won the Cup five times in its first seven years, restored it to the Association, with the proviso that it should never again be won outright. That, the original Cup, was later stolen at Birmingham after Aston Villa had won it, in 1895.

The early successes of the South stimulated the North, and in 1879 Darwen, a team of Lancashire working lads, came to the Oval to play a Cup-tie against the Old Etonians. The visiting players, as was their normal habit, took the field with the majority wearing their working trousers, braced over

dark shirts, not all of the same pattern, while the "shorts" worn by the few possessing them were old trousers cut down. But it took the Old Etonians three stern games to defeat them, and then in 1883 Blackburn Olympic, all but one of them artisans, shocked the South by defeating the Old Etonians in an Oval Final. After that Blackburn Rovers equalled the feat of the Wanderers by carrying off the Cup five times in seven years, once beating Queen's Park in the final with ten Scottish Internationals in the Glasgow side. The tide had turned indeed, and not for many a year afterwards did the Cup find a resting-place in the South.

## January's Saints

JANUARY 21 is St Agnes's Day.

According to legend St Agnes was a high-born maiden of Cornwall who refused to accept the hand of a distinguished Roman. For this she was exposed in a public place, whereupon a miracle is said to have been wrought, and her long hair, growing very much longer, covered her entirely. St Agnes was martyred when only 13, during the persecution by Diocletian in the fourth century.

St Agnes's Day is young maidens' day, and many old customs and superstitions used to be attached to it. In the Middle Ages it was a holiday for women. Keats wrote a beautiful poem about St Agnes's Eve.



## Picture of Politeness

At Hendon, Middlesex, an exhibition of pictures drawn by boys and girls was a feature of the Courtesy Campaign held in schools throughout Greater London. These two young visitors take notes to assist them with their own pictures.

## FOOD FADDISTS AT THE ZOO

By Our Own Correspondent

HAVE you ever been accused of being "fussy" over your food? You are not the only offender. You have your counterparts in the Zoo!

Most animals, of course, become "choosy" if they are given too many titbits. But overfeeding is not always the cause. Sometimes it is due to their having been spoilt before they came to Regent's Park.

A short while ago a man and his wife, returning to England from the Gold Coast, brought with them a duiker (dyker) antelope. The animal, being kept purely as a domestic pet, soon became pampered. It got into the habit not only of sleeping on its owners' bed, but even shared their early-morning cup of tea. It was, too, fed on all manner of unaccustomed titbits.

On the morning after its arrival in the Gardens the keeper threw down a bundle of green food for its breakfast, expecting to see the little newcomer fall upon it. Instead, he gazed up at the keepers with an expression on his face that said, as clearly as words could have done: "What do you want me to do with that—eat it? No fear! Mine's something much more tasty!"

Well, needless to say, the faddy little duiker got no more special titbits; and, although he moped a bit at first, hunger got the better of him in the end, and soon he settled down to enjoy the usual rations.

Another of the more picky creatures in the Gardens today is Wally, one of the riding camels. Although Wally has been in the Zoo a long time, he still will not eat potatoes—a food which is eagerly accepted by most camels. He absolutely refuses, too, to pick up fallen titbits. He will take food from your fingers, certainly; but if you are clumsy enough to let it fall before it reaches his mouth—

well, Wally just glances at it with a supercilious expression and leaves it for one of his companions to retrieve.

One of the most difficult animals to feed is Lien-Ho, the giant panda. The only food she will eat without any fuss is



Lien-Ho is spoon-fed

bamboo, the shoots of which form her main diet. But for variety she also has to have honey—a delicacy which she will take only if her favourite keeper "spoon-feeds" her.

But I suppose the biggest food-faddist now in the Gardens is two-ton Dicksi, the African elephant. Dicksi has many queer fads and fancies. For example, he will not touch a dog-biscuit, a thing most elephants will eat, and if offered one he just tosses it aside. The reason is that these biscuits contain fragments of meat, and Dicksi hates meat. His admirers, too, are often rather offended because presents of stale home-made cakes are rejected. For that, however, there is a different reason. Most of these cakes contain bicarbonate of soda, which Dicksi also loathes. He does not need to taste the cake to detect the presence of this ingredient. He is a clever animal, and he knows whether it is there or not as soon as he has the offering in his trunk. C. H.

The Children's Newspaper, January 25, 1947

## Two Pioneers of Modern Education

Two grand old pathfinders of modern methods of education recently passed on, one in Vienna, the other in Cornwall. Vienna lost one of her best-loved citizens, Professor Franz Cizek, the world-famous art teacher, at the age of 81. In Cornwall the Revd Alfred Thornley, aged 91, the natural history teacher, had rested after a long life of hard work.

Franz Cizek was among the first to startle the world by maintaining that the best way to teach art to children was to free them from the slavery of copying and let them draw or paint or model just what they wanted to in any medium they liked. He believed that every normal child has creative capacity. He opened his first children's art class in 1897.

His pupils had a wide choice of materials. Besides drawing and painting, there were lino-cutting, wood-carving, clay-modelling, paper-cutting, etching, pictures made in lace or embroidery, or anything else the young folk could think of.

His methods met with considerable opposition at first, but gained the world's attention when, after the First World War, the Save the Children Fund brought to England and later to America an exhibition of his pupils' work. People were amazed at their colourful paintings and bold drawings.

## Nature Study in Schools

Britain, however, also had an art teacher working on the same lines. He was T. R. Ablett, who founded the Royal Drawing Society to encourage children's art and in 1890 organised the annual exhibition often called the Children's Royal Academy. He died last year.

The Revd Alfred Thornley was a pioneer in quite another field. He was largely responsible for introducing nature study as a school subject. As a young man, when he could spare time from his church duties in Nottinghamshire, he gave lectures on geology, botany, and zoology, subjects in which he was deeply interested. He was invited to train teachers in nature study so that it could be added to the other regular subjects taught in our schools.

This side of his work grew to such an extent that eventually he supervised the nature study work of 700 schools. In 1925 he retired to Cornwall.

His collection of 126,300 Cornish insects is in South Kensington's Natural History Museum, a permanent and fitting memorial of his life's work.

## Plastic Spectacles

IN the manufacture of plastic spectacles Britain now leads the world. In the last two years more than 1,250,000 have been exported, and 90 per cent of the further million to be made in the next twelve months will go to meet the great demand from abroad. Orders have been received from every country in the world and supplies are insufficient to meet the demand.

The great shortage of ordinary lenses in this country has been caused considerably by this manufacture of plastic lenses.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### The Best Kind of Present

THROUGHOUT the day the children watched the swirling snowflakes falling. At first they had been delighted. "It's old Mother Goose plucking her geese," Auntie Dot had said, and Jack and Pam had thought it a fine joke. Then suddenly Pam had remembered. "Oh, Jack," she exclaimed, "we won't be able to get Auntie Dot's present!"

The children had planned to walk into the village that afternoon to buy a present for their aunt's birthday, which was on the following day. The village was several miles off, and both children knew that they would not be granted permission to go out while the snowstorm was raging.

Pam was nearly in tears, but Jack was made of sterner stuff. "I've an idea," he said, and quickly whispered his plan to his sister.

"Oh, that would be lovely," answered Pam, her eyes shining. "But are you sure you can do it?"

"I'm certain!" replied Jack confidently.

That evening odd sounds issued from the spare room.

The next day, when Auntie Dot looked out of the window, she had a surprise. A neat little post stood in the centre

of the lawn, and on it was a tray to hold crumbs for the birds. She was delighted with it, and so were the birds.

Food was hard to find in the snow-covered countryside, and during the day many



birds visited the crumb-tray. Pam and Jack were especially amused by the antics of the starlings.

Suddenly Pam said, "It's not fair, auntie! It is your present, but everyone else enjoys it just as much as you."

Auntie Dot smiled.

"Why, Pam," she said, "that's the best kind of present you can possibly have—one which can be shared."



# THE AGE-LONG BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

## When Seas Run "Mountains High"

This is the season of storms and high seas, when all mariners whose calling it is to face the wild weather of winter are often in our thoughts and prayers. Here a CN correspondent who has made 112 voyages across the Atlantic tells something of the size and power of the waves in mid-ocean.

JANUARY gales! Many an Atlantic liner will be bucking into them these wild days and nights, ploughing through them, running before them as their mountainous waves try to "poop" her, that is, curl down over her stern.

Britain's "Queens" will be encountering these racing seas from the west. A few rails twisted on the fo'c'sle, a few foreheads cut and thumbs sprained as passengers slither across the alleyways, and the great liners will "tie up" none the worse, though salted to the funnel-tops.

### Promenade Decks Awash with Blue-Green Water

"How high were the waves?" passengers will be asked, as they tell thrilling stories of walls of blue-green water thundering down over the bows, surging past the promenade decks and away astern in the boiling wake.

Well, just how high are the waves of the January gales? It is extremely difficult to say, because distance-perpendicular as well as horizontal—is so deceptive at sea, and especially from the height of the promenade deck or the bridge. The captain's estimate will be more reliable than the passenger's, so let us see what the captains say.

After one recent stormy crossing Sir James Bisset, then skipper of the Queen Elizabeth, spoke of a 40-foot wave—that is, a wave 40 feet from trough to crest.

Fifty feet was the height the late Captain Sir Arthur Rostron gave for one wave during a rough crossing some years before the war. That is higher than the average four-storied house. A

year later, Captain Diggle, taking the Aquitania through the worst weather he had ever known, reckoned the waves were between 45 and 60 feet. Not long after this a storm which burst over the Berengaria caused waves to curl over A deck, 70 feet above the water-line.

But, so far as I know, it rests with Commodore Ziegenbein of the old German Bremen to assign the "highest ever" height of an Atlantic wave. Docking his ship in January, 1933, he told of waves two feet higher than his 80-foot bridge—more than half as high as Nelson's Column!

Now, as to width, from crest to crest. Here the sight can be truly awe-inspiring. Perhaps you know what the length of a 100-yard running track looks like. Well, imagine three of these placed end to end. I have it on the authority of a bridge officer that a roller we were once watching sweep majestically along the beam must have measured some 300 yards from crest to crest!

It is not, however, at the height of a storm that we meet waves of such width. It is *after* the storm. As the gale dies down, the swell comes up. These giants are rollers. They may have no white caps at all. But it is these waves that make the ship pitch highest—and roll deepest.

In the old Mauretania I often had a saloon cabin just under the bridge. This meant that I caught the full "lift" of the swell. On one trip we pitched heavily for 24 hours on end. My cabin rose and fell, rose and fell, without pause; some 40 feet up, some 40 feet down; three seconds up, three seconds down, according to my timing.

Imagine going up three storeys in a lift in three seconds, and

down in the same time, for 24 hours. No wonder I was seasick!

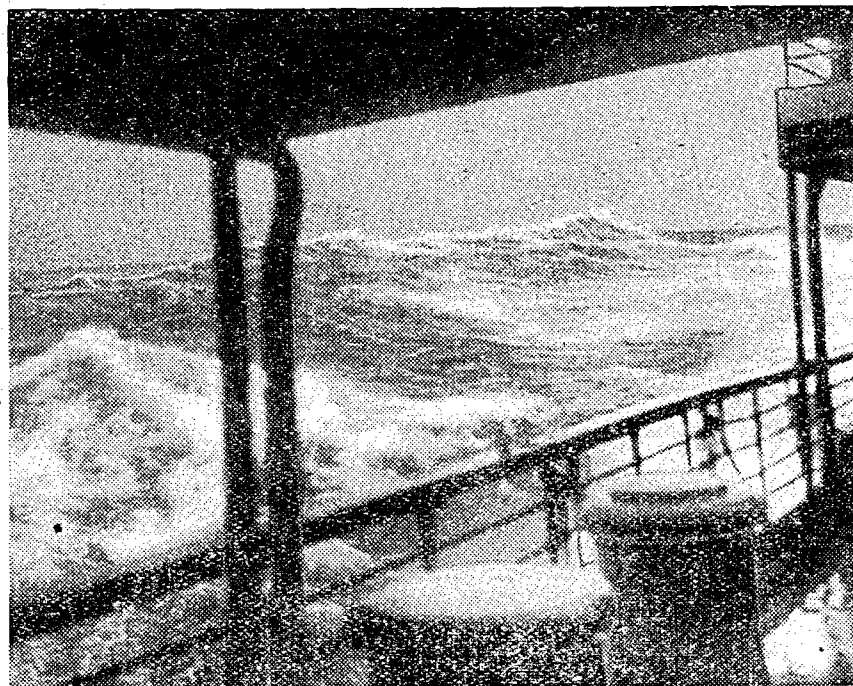
As to seasickness, I soon came to the conclusion that this was much more a state of mind than of body. After the first few of my 112 Atlantic crossings I formed a plan, and it worked. I was never seasick again.

I would get dressed by stages, during the quieter moments. Every twelfth pitch or so I would send me straight to my bunk, to lie completely relaxed and limp until the next quieter period came. At last I would be dressed, and would make a dash for the cabin door, stagger up the alleyway until I reached the door leading on to the promenade deck amidships, get out on deck, and look at the waves, look at the sky, at the sea-birds; in fact, look—at anything.

### A Three-Point Plan to Conquer Mal-de-Mer

This was the first point in the plan—the directing of attention. The second was the taking in of long draughts of cold, refreshing air; and the third was standing amidships—straddling the seasaw, as it were.

But the deliberate directing of attention is the important point. Soon I found that I could even stand right forward, where the pitch is greatest. Watching the waves breaking over the bows, I quite forgot the troubles of the "inner man."



The wild waves of the Atlantic

The swell, of course, is heaviest over deep water. Some of the heaviest may be met over the Devil's Hole. This is a sea-bed formation south of Ireland and south-west of England, in a continuation of the pointer of Devon and Cornwall. Here, in some 50 miles of the ship's steaming, the sea-bed drops almost sheer from 50 fathoms to about 2000 fathoms.

So tremendous at times can the surface swell be here that we can completely lose sight of big trawlers as they plunge into the trough. At last they appear again, laboriously climbing to the crest of the next wave.

To return to the storm itself. Passengers in the Queen Elizabeth recently told of spray 25 feet high. That was probably spindrift—the spray caught up by the wind from the white-cap. But I have seen spray shot 150 feet up, almost as high as Nelson's head in Trafalgar Square!

This arises from the impact of a wave recoiling from the bows

against the next oncoming wave. It is the cause of the salted funnel-tops I have mentioned.

There are five degrees of storm, according to the Beaufort Wind Scale: wind-force number 8 brings a mere gale; number 9 (50 mph) means strong gale; number 10 (59 mph) means whole gale; number 11 (68 mph) is storm, and number 12 (above 75 mph) is hurricane. A hurricane is rare in North Atlantic waters.

There is another side to winter storms. Many a passenger will declare that his most moving experience in gale weather has been Sunday morning Service. He was in a great British liner, he had done his lifeboat drill—but he, and hundreds with him, had sung with deep sincerity that great hymn to the Eternal Father, strong to save, "for those in peril on the sea," as the waters rose, raced by, and fell away. For the average landsman this is indeed an experience never to be forgotten.

## RIP VAN WINKLE—Washington Irving's Famous Story, Told in Pictures



After he woke up on the mountainside, Rip Van Winkle returned to the village, wondering what his scolding wife would say to him for sleeping out all night. But the village, when he reached it, seemed to have grown larger, and he knew none of the people he saw.



They all stared at him curiously and he suddenly realised that he had a long beard! He hurried to his house and found it a ruin. In desperation he hastened to the village inn, but that too was gone.



In its place was a large wooden building near which floated a strange flag with stars and stripes on it. On the inn-sign, instead of King George, was George Washington. Outside, a crowd was listening to a man making a speech. He spoke of Bunker Hill, Congress, Liberty, the heroes of '76; all of which meant nothing to poor bewildered Rip.



The crowd turned to gaze at Rip, and someone asked him quietly if he voted Federal or Democrat? "Alas, gentlemen," he replied, "I am a poor, quiet man, and a loyal subject of King George." At that there were shouts of "A Tory! A spy! Away with him!"

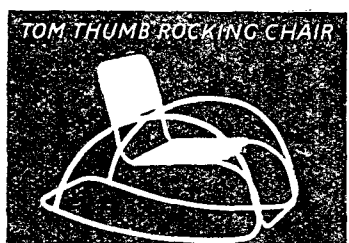
What happened to poor, lonely Rip Van Winkle is told in next week's instalment of this famous story





Chappie's the stuff that puts pep into a pup, makes him enjoy his meals, builds him up into a strong, healthy dog. It's the food that will keep him full of fun and energy—his meat diet balanced to the best advantage. Vets and breeders agree that it's the finest all-round doggy diet.

**"CHAPPIE" DOG FOOD**



**"TOM THUMB"**  
nursery furniture



## How to shift a Stubborn Cold

That beastly cough which simply won't go—here's the way to get rid of it. There's an old-fashioned recipe which has grown so popular that chemists everywhere are keeping it made up, bottled and ready for use. It's the "Parmint" recipe. One dose of this Parmint Syrup will ease the most stubborn cough. A few more will start to clear it right away. Just try it and see.

It's grand for children too. Quite safe and with a flavour kiddies positively like.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parmint Syrup from your chemist to-day and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle, Family size 2/10, including Tax.

NOTE.—If through shortage of bottles your chemist is out of Parmint Syrup, get a 3/11 bottle of Parmint Concentrated Essences and make up a big supply yourself.

AT THE CIRCUS:  
Bertie fills everyone  
with delight!



HE MUST BE  
100 PER CENT



**Lixen**

THE GOOD-NATURED LAXATIVE  
In bottles - - 2/3, 3/11

**LIXEN LOZENGES**  
For the children. Fruit-flavoured, in bottles 1/8  
From Chemists only.

It's an Allenburys Product  
Made in England by Allen & Hanburys Ltd.

## The Unknown Caves of Nullarbor

AN expedition is exploring a region of Australia that is still unknown—but it is an underground region; it is the intricate maze of caves and subterranean lakes and rivers that lies below the Nullarbor Plain of South Australia.

The surface of the plain itself is one of the most desolate areas of Australia, though the Trans-Australian Railway lies across it, straight as an arrow. Nullarbor is Latin for "no trees," and this desert lives up to its name, for not a blade of grass or a tree grows there, the only vegetation being saltbush, a plant which can live in salty soil. There are no rabbits or kangaroos.

Nullarbor is the dry roof of an immense honeycomb of caves and passages similar to the crystalline limestone caves in this country and America—this certainly is known about it. As for the underground rivers which flow far below this parched and silent desert, Mrs Daisy Bates, who lived for many years caring for the Aborigines near Nullarbor, once told the C N that she had seen the sea of the Bight discoloured for miles by the floodwaters from some uncharted Nullarbor underground stream.

The main object of the present expedition is to rediscover certain big caves which were first found by a Government official in 1880, since when no one has

been able to find their position. This is the fifth Nullarbor cave quest made by Captain Maitland Thomson, the leader of the present expedition. Once he sought the lost caves by flying over the desert.

On his 1939 exploration of other Nullarbor caves he was handicapped by lack of cave-climbing equipment, so this time he and his six companions have taken with them an 80-foot-long "Jacob's" ladder to enable them to descend the huge sinkholes, and a truck with a winch and derrick on it by which they may go down the deep blowholes or bottleneck caves. They have also taken with them a canoe in which to explore the dark, winding caverns of the underground waterways—an eerie sort of voyage! They made their journey to this forbidding and unexplored caveland by car and truck.

Their exploration of the caves may well yield discoveries of great scientific interest. There is the unquenchable spirit of the explorer which cannot rest while anywhere there is unknown territory to be conquered.

## A New Charter For Our Farmers

A FARMING Charter has been presented to the House of Commons which, almost certainly, will open a new era in the long history of British agriculture.

It is called the Agriculture Bill, and its object is to promote a stable and efficient farming industry capable of producing as much of our food as it is in the national interest to produce at home, and of producing it at prices which will give farmers and farm workers a proper return for their labours in the way of money and living conditions; and also on the capital which the farmers invest.

The two pillars upon which the Government's farming policy rest are stability and efficiency. The new Bill will guarantee the farmer an assured market for his produce, at prices which will enable him to plan well ahead. In return, farmers will have to attain the highest possible degree of efficiency, by using the most up-to-date farming methods, and by taking advantage of the benefits of modern agricultural research.

Not an acre which is good farming land will be used for any other purpose if poorer land can be equally used.

Where land is not managed efficiently, the Government will have power to place landowners or farmers under supervision, and, if necessary, to dispossess them and take over the land themselves. For this purpose an Agricultural Land Commission will be set up.

Land (fenland, for instance) which cannot be properly developed for farming without expenditure which a private farmer cannot be expected to bear, will be taken over and developed by the State.

The county agricultural com-

mittees, which did such fine work during the war, will be made permanent.

Another important feature of the Bill is the provision of small-holdings, by means of which suitable farm workers will be encouraged to become farmers on their own account.

Just before the war the value of our home-produced food was about £290,000,000. During the war this figure increased to nearly £580,000,000. That was true progress. Agriculture and coal-mining are our two most important industries, without which we cannot live. Every ounce of the best possible food must be produced out of every available acre of our land. The Bill now before Parliament bids fair to achieve the desired result, and to give farmers and farm workers a square deal as well.

## Round the Museums THE ZOETROPE

THIS zoetrope, or wheel of life as it is sometimes called, which is in the Hertford Museum, was the equivalent of



the cinema to the children of a hundred years ago. It consists of a hollow cylinder with the surface pierced with slots, and on the inside is a strip of pictures of a figure in successive stages of movement. The figure appears to move when the cylinder is rotated.

## GETTING RID OF THE SMOKE

INJURIOUS fumes from factory chimneys and the smoke from myriads of domestic grates have long been a menace to perfect health in our big towns.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has begun a three-year programme of experiments in preparation for a campaign to get rid of atmospheric pollution in British towns and cities. Instruments for measuring pollution of the air are being installed in some London suburbs and Surrey districts in order to obtain a close estimate of the average deposit of sulphur dioxide given off by factories.

Smoke from big ships was almost eliminated during the war (so that they could not be easily located by submarines), and furnace and boiler improvements have already reduced much of the factory smoke.

Even with the new speed-up, it will, we fear, be many years before we are completely free from pollution.

## Milk-Tin Models Show the Way

THIRTY-FOUR years ago Mr Harold A. Gaskin of London set to work to build a model "unsinkable lifeboat," using some old milk tins which he broke up for the purpose.

He conceived the idea shortly after the sinking of the Titanic, and since the first "milk-tin model" he has constructed over 120 experimental models. From these, blue prints have been drawn up and a full-size lifeboat for liners is being built. On May 11 this will be taken from Southampton to mid-Atlantic and left to find her own way to New York.

It is expected that this journey will take about 21 days at the lowest speed of four knots. Mr Gaskin will sail on the maiden trip and will transmit wireless reports to the mainland at regular intervals.

The lifeboat is fitted with two Diesel engines.

## HUDSON'S BAY SCHOLARSHIPS

FOUR scholarships worth £450 each, for the year 1947, are being offered by the Hudson's Bay Company to mark the 275th anniversary of their incorporation as a company.

Two of the scholarships are to be won in this country and two in Canada. The British winners will study in Canada and the Canadian winners will come to Britain. Candidates in the United Kingdom have to be between 23 and 30 years of age, for the purpose of these scholarships is to give advanced training to business men and to encourage research into subjects, such as distribution and trading, in which the company is interested. Also it is intended to strengthen the links between the business communities in Britain and Canada.

More information can be obtained from the Secretary, Hudson's Bay Scholarships, Beaver House, Great Trinity Lane, London, E C 4.



The Children's Newspaper, January 25, 1947

## SHIPS ON THE SCREEN

ONE of the few remaining "windjammers," a German-built vessel called the Passat, is now on her way from Sweden to South Africa. She is the subject of a film now being made of the voyage of an ocean-going sailing ship, and on board is a film team of the Children's Department of Mr J. Arthur Rank's organisation, who are making documentaries for audiences all over the world.

The Passat is, of course, not the first "film star" sailing ship; similar ships were used in such Hollywood productions as *Mutiny on the Bounty* and *Two Years Before the Mast*, and films have also been made on several British windjammers. The Liverpool-built barque *Shakespeare* was chartered by a London film company some years before the war for a part in a film; and the running ashore in the Solway Firth recently of the schooner *Mary B. Mitchell* recalled the fact that this ship had once made voyages in the making of a film drama of the sea.

### Thinking Hard



The Dutch champion, Miss F. Heemskerck, appropriately attired in a check dress, presents a study of concentration at the Hastings Chess Congress.

## Keeping Submarines Under Water

THE announcement that all the German technical secrets discovered are to be open to use by our own and Allied manufacturers has been followed by the taking over by our Navy of the German Schnorkel, a marvel of scientific ingenuity brought into use against us by the U-boats.

Submarines, electrically driven when submerged, previously had to come periodically to the surface in order that their batteries might be recharged by Diesel engines, which propelled the craft on the surface but could not work under water. While thus exposed to view the vessel could be easily detected and attacked by warships and aeroplanes. So German ingenuity produced the Schnorkel.

This consists of two parallel pipes, enclosed in a single big steel cylinder which is hinged on deck near the base of the conning tower and erected so that the top of the longer pipe is level with the crown of the periscope. Through this pipe fresh air is drawn in, while from the parallel shorter tube fouled air from the interior is forced out. With these

## Help For the Best Dog of All

ADMIRERS of our wonderful sheepdogs will rejoice to hear that from January 1 this year working sheepdogs owned by shepherds anywhere in Britain are to receive free veterinary treatment—and will perhaps be rather surprised to hear how little official care there has been for these four-footed friends of ours who are so valuable to the nation.

The National Canine Defence League, which is bearing the cost, is issuing tickets authorising veterinary surgeons to treat these devoted, hard-worked dogs when they are sick or injured.

For hard-worked they are, indeed. No one has even invented any kind of mechanical contrivance to take the place of a sheepdog, without whose aid the shepherds' task today would be absolutely impossible. The sheepdog often works 24 hours a day, during which he is incessantly on the move on his strong, fleet limbs. After covering 15 to 20 miles a day he must frequently guard the sheep all night if they are in unfenced pasture—and no soldier was ever more faithful to his duty. In the Australian wool trade the sheepdog's value runs into millions of pounds.

Yet his only reward is the abiding love and trust of his master—and sometimes, unfortunately, even this is lacking and he is treated simply as a slave.

For a long time, in recent years, nothing was done to feed him properly. His staple food is

oatmeal, but with this on points farmers and shepherds found it impossible to save their dogs from being reduced to skin and bone. The food situation, happily, has improved since the Canine Defence League obtained from the Ministry of Food an issue of an allowance of oatmeal for working sheepdogs.

But the underfeeding worked havoc among our sheepdogs, who have suffered badly from worms, ear-canker, skin troubles, and other complaints. The new free veterinary service will be a great boon to these dogs, who earn their keep as deservedly as any human.

Shepherds receive no subsidy of any kind, and no grant is being made from taxation towards the new service, but the League is confident that British dog-lovers will be glad to subscribe small sums to show their appreciation of what the sheepdog has done for us.

Shepherds wanting tickets for free veterinary treatment for their dogs should apply to: V A W S, c/o Canine Defence, 8 Clifford Street, London, W.1.

## STRIKE-A-LIGHT

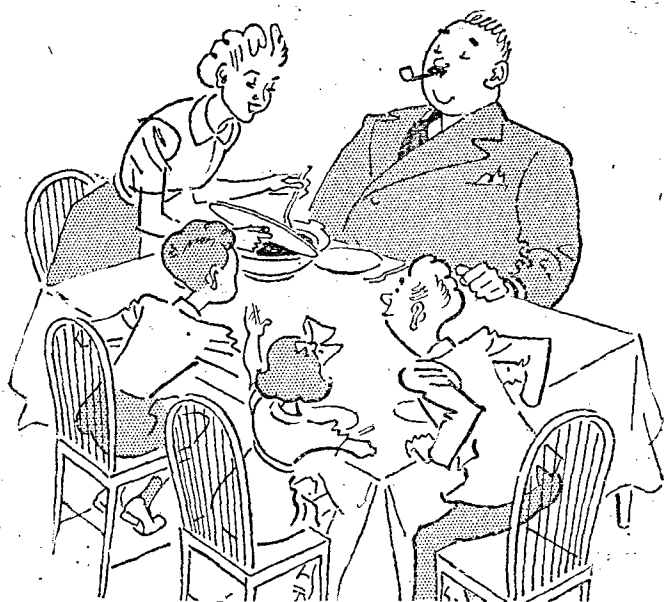
EVERY child knows how to strike a light, and almost every child has to be told not to play with matches. At the Children's Gallery of the Science Museum they can now see not only the first matches but the way the first men struck a light without them. There was more than one way, but the first was the same as the last. He struck a light by a spark from a flint, as he now does in his petrol lighter.

Now, as then, the instantaneous spark has to have something else

to set burning. Our great-grandfathers, after tens of thousands of years, were still starting a fire by letting the spark fall on tinder. The first tinder was a dried toadstool, but grandfather had long arrived at something more handy, and, in fact, the tinder and the tinder-box had made great strides between the days of Queen Elizabeth and of Queen Victoria.

At the Science Museum its progress is set out in case after case of the tinder-boxes, handsome tinder-box pistols, costly silver pocket pistols, and every kind of embroidered bag to carry the tinder. No nobleman was without a light in his pocket. The tinder-box was a labour-saving device compared with other prehistoric ways of lighting the fire, and some of them survive still in out-of-the-way corners of the world. They also are here to be seen. The most laborious is that of rubbing two pieces of wood together till friction sets one of them smouldering. It has to be seen to be believed.

Here also is an early substitute for tinder—split pine needles, readily catching fire; they still were being split when George III was king, and from East Scotland comes an odd iron tool for splitting them, called a *puir-man* after the "poor men" who split them for a living. It was nearly 100 years later that the tinder and the steel gave way at last to the first matches invented by John Walker, a chemist of Stockton-on-Tees, in 1827. One of his boxes of matches is here also, with all the matches that followed, or joined it—the French sulphur-tipped, the fusée, the lucifer, down to the safety match that strikes only on the box.



WHEN THERE'S  
A LARGE FAMILY TO FEED—  
**OXO'S**  
THE ANSWER!

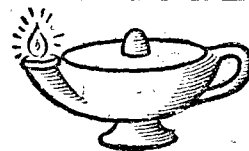


The  
finest badge  
you can wear!

Every boy and every girl should jump at the chance of wearing this badge. It means that the wearer has promised to try to do a good turn to help children who need protection from those very people upon whose love and care they should be able to depend. The League of Pity wants you as a Member. Wear this fine badge and show you are helping to do great work. Every member who gives 10/- is entitled to it. Why not write to the Director for full details?

Join the **L.O.P**

Junior Branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Victory House, Leicester Sq., London, W.C.2



GIVE YOUR  
CHILDREN A  
HELPING HAND

By encouraging your children to join the Scripture Union and thus helping them towards a full and appreciative understanding of The Bible, you will also be helping them to lay the firm foundations on which the Christian Life is built.

The S.U. daily readings and explanatory notes are guiding over one million members through the Scriptures; leading them in service to God and their fellows that they may reap the reward of a fuller and richer life.

May we send you further details?

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THE  
SCRIPTURE UNION  
5 Wigmore St., London, W.1





## THE BRAN TUB

### QUESTION OF WEIGHT

"My son brought down four ration books, but you have only sent back three pounds of oranges," said the voice at the other end of the telephone.

"Well, madam, four pounds of the fruit left here," said the greengrocer. "Have you tried weighing your little boy?"

### Target Practice

At a rifle range the targets were marked:

16 17 23 24 39

One man totalled 100 points with six consecutive hits. How many did he score each time?

Answer next week

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Slumbering Hedgehog. Attracted by Pip's excited barks, Don investigated. The puppy was standing in a dry ditch, where, beneath an old log and partly covered with dead leaves, a Hedgehog lay. It appeared to be quite lifeless, but Don carefully covered it up and dragged the protesting pup away.

"You acted wisely," said Farmer Gray, when hearing about the hedgehog. "Hedgehogs hibernate in the true sense of the word, and when in this condition can easily be presumed dead. During March Mr Prickles will awaken, and hungry after his long rest, will amble off in search of food. Slugs and other garden pests are eaten by hedgehogs."

### RODDY



"Is that what you would call the line of least resistance, Daddy?"

### Jumbled Names

Each of these phrases rearranged spells the name of either a boy or a girl. Can you sort them out?

A DRUM SON MY JEER  
TRAM GEAR A CLERIC  
HER TUB GLARED IN

Answer next week

### SKATING SKILL

A CLEVER young skater of fame, Who had learned all the tricks of the game, Figure 8's cut with ease, But he found, if you please, That he simply could not write his name.

### Tongue Twister

THROUGH six thick tumbled swamps stumbled Stevie Stubble.

## Jacko Comes to the Rescue



Uncle Chimp was fond of skating but not fond of falling.

### The Welcome Snowdrop

THE first month of the year's growing old,  
And it's not quite so dark or so cold,  
Said a little snowdrop,  
So from earth I will pop  
My green leaves and fair flowers to unfold.

### His Way Out

"Why is Daddy singing so much tonight?" asked Jack.

"He's trying to sing Baby to sleep," replied Mother.

"H'm!" grunted Jack. "If I were Baby I should pretend to be asleep."

### MUSICAL STATUES

ONE or two umpires stand in the centre of the room, and, to music, all canter in line round them. When the music stops each one must stay just as he is until it starts again—anyone moving so much as an eyelash is out. If there is a big crowd more umpires will be needed to watch for defaulters.

This is a very good party game because it is one of the few where it is really more fun for those who are out of the game than for the players left in—it is a case of the onlookers seeing the most antics!

### Riddles About Ships

WHAT game is played by a ship in a rough sea? *Pitch and toss.*

Which liners always have music on board? *The P & O (piano).*

When is a ship sentimental? *When she hugs the shore.*

### Catch Question

WHAT did the fence say when the tree fell and broke it? *Tremendous (tree mend us)*

## The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, January 22, to Tuesday, January 28.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Great Toytown War. 5.30 Boyd Neel Talking. Welsh, 5.0 Bambouno the Terrible; American School-days—a talk; Billy Williams (violin).

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Chevalier to the Rescue (Part 3). Scottish, 5.0 All Aboard the Barge (Part 2); More About Mr Simister. Welsh, 5.30 Bedtime Stories (No 2); What's in a Picture?—first of a series of Art Talks.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Cat with Nine Lives. 5.40 Esther Salaman singing Folk Songs. Midland, 5.40 Just Thinking—a conversation with songs. North, 5.0 Mr Cornshaw Steps Out; You Wanted to Know. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Look at the Stars—an astronomy talk; Inter-towns Quiz; Patricia Greer (songs).



"I've an idea," said Jacko, spotting the guard round a young tree.

### FACTS ABOUT CEYLON

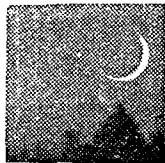
KNOWN to the Romans as Taprobane, from the native name meaning island of the dusky leaves, Ceylon has an area of 25,332 square miles, being 270 miles long and 140 miles wide.

The estimated population is 6,384,000, consisting mainly of Sinhalese, descendants of colonists from the Ganges who first settled there about 543 B.C. The main religion is Buddhism, which was introduced in the third century B.C. by Mahinda, the son of the Buddhist emperor Asoka. The capital is Colombo, with a population of 284,150.

In 1505 the Portuguese formed settlements in Ceylon, but were dispossessed by the Dutch 150 years later. In 1796 Britain annexed the Dutch settlements and Ceylon became a British Crown Colony in 1802. The Colony became self-governing in May 1946, with a parliament consisting of two Chambers, a Senate, and a House of Representatives. The chief products are tea and rubber.

### Other Worlds

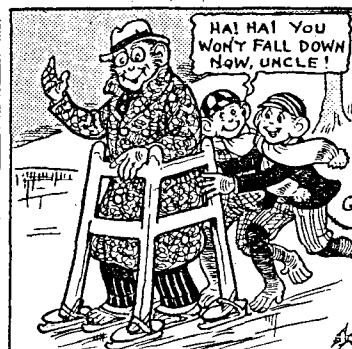
IN the evening Saturn and Uranus are in the south-east. In the morning Venus and Jupiter are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at seven o'clock on the evening of Sunday, January 26.



### THE RIGHT ELEVATION

PROSPEROUS business man: "I am very proud of my son—he started from the bottom of the ladder."

Less successful rival: "Ah, but the ladder began at the top floor."



They fastened the guard round Uncle Chimp and sped merrily across the ice.

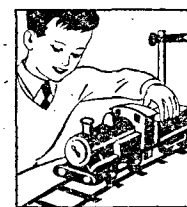
### Who Was He?

THE man in the picture-story on page 4 was Cervantes.



"Mine's a model Target!"

"Guess what I'm saving for—a model railway! That's my target, and I'm buying National Savings Stamps as hard as I can. When the railways are in the shops and I can choose



the sort I want, I'll probably have enough money saved! And by saving now, I'm helping towards Britain's Target too. Are you saving up for something? I bet you are!"

Join your School Group — and

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE

SAVE

BUY 6d., 2/6d., OR 5/- NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS WHENEVER YOU CAN

### THE KNELL

THE notice against the bell on the counter read, Please Ring, and the customer complied, but with no result.

A second and a third ring still remained unanswered. Exasperated, the customer kept up a running tinkle, and finally the proprietor appeared to inquire blandly, "You rang, sir?"

"Oh, no, I was just tolling—I thought you were dead."

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Hidden Footwear  
Wellingtons; sandals; slipper; boot; clog; shoe.

Puzzle Limerick  
East; teas; sate; seat.

C	O	K	E	A	B	E	T
O	N	L	E	G	A	T	E
B	U	L	B	E	R	O	S
S	O	O	T	O	N	T	
P	T	W	A	I	N	S	
A	L	T	P	R	E	Y	
P	I	E	R	A	T	O	M
E	R	R	A	N	T	R	E
R	A	I	S	E	V	E	N